

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q87052

Gerald WALKER, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/563,594

Group Art Unit: 1794

Confirmation No.: 3282

Examiner: Jonathan C. Langman

Filed: June 7, 2006

For: COMPOSITE MATERIAL HAVING THE APPEARANCE OF NATURAL STONE

PETITION FOR SUSPENSION OF ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(a)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Concurrent with the filing of this Response, Applicants respectfully request a Suspension of Action for a period of six (6) months, along with the \$200.00 fee set forth under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(g). Applicants have good and sufficient cause for requesting this Suspension, as described below.

As a means to address the outstanding obviousness rejections over the cited prior art references Appleton, Sakai, Payne, and Ramirez, it is Applicants' intention to conduct comparative studies of the antimicrobial effectiveness of the present composites as compared to the closest comparative examples existing in the art.

However, the resultant time required for such studies, wherein the closest comparative examples must first be obtained and then tested at length is exhaustive. Together with the time required for preparing for the experiment and the time required to analyze and submit the

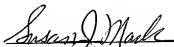
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experimental results to the USPTO, Applicants believe that 6 months will be needed to complete the Examiner's suggested tests.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that this Petition for Suspension of Action for 6 months be granted.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: July 21, 2010